

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A system for implementing a wireless and/or mobile conferencing solution~~ conferencing communication devices, comprising,  
at least one conference bridge for providing a multiparty audio  
conferencing session between the communication devices;  
a voice interface unit (VIU) enabled for:
  - prompting and collecting of information from the communication  
devices;
  - playing voice announcements; and
  - receiving validation data from the communication devices via  
connections between said VIU and the communication devices, said  
VIU further enabled to forward said validation data to a validating  
entity; anda conference server enabled for:
  - instructing a switching point to establish at least a first connection  
between said VIU and at least a first communication device such that  
said VIU may receive at least first validation data from at least said first  
communication device and forward said first validation data to said  
conference server, said switching point enabled to establish  
connections for the communication devices;
  - validating said first validation data; and, in response to said  
validating said first validation data:
    - instructing said switching point to terminate said first  
connection; and
    - instructing said switching point to establish a second

connection between said at least one conference bridge and said first communication device to establish said conferencing session.

Claims 2 - 12 (cancelled)

13. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein said conference server is further enabled for instructing said VIU to play at least one announcement over said first connection, prior to said instructing said switching point to terminate said first connection.
14. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein said instructing said switching point to establish said first connection occurs in response to receiving a query from said switching point, the query generated in response to receiving a conference call service access number from said first communication device at said switching point.
15. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein said instructing said switching point to establish said first connection occurs in response to a time being a scheduled time, said scheduled time being previously provisioned in a conference call setup.
16. (New) The system of claim 15, wherein said conference call set up occurs via at least one of at least one SMS message, at least one USSD message, a web-based graphical user interface (GUI), and an interactive voice response (IVR) menu.
17. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein said conference server is further enabled for:  
instructing said switching point to establish at least a third connection

between the VIU and at least a second communication device, such that said VIU may receive at least second validation data from at least said second communication device and forward at least said second validation data to said conference server;

validating at least said second validation data; and, in response to said validating at least said second validation data:

instructing said switching point to terminate at least said third connection; and

instructing said switching point to establish at least a fourth connection between said at least one conference bridge and at least said second communication device such that at least said second communication device joins said conferencing session.

18. (New) The system of claim 17, wherein said conference server is further enabled for instructing said VIU to set up a communication session with said at least one conference bridge to announce the arrival of at least said second communication device to said conferencing session.

19. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein said conference server is further enabled for monitoring at least one of conference time and conference events.

20. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein said conference server is further enabled for:

interfacing with at least one of a billing system and an open charging middleware platform for mediating with at least one of a prepaid platform and a postpaid platform, said interfacing for determining a remaining amount of funds for paying for said conferencing session; detecting a remaining amount of conference time based on said

remaining amount of funds; and

instructing the VIU to set up a communication session with the conference bridge to play a warning expiry announcement in said conference session.

21. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein said conference server is further enabled for instructing said switching point to dial out to at least a second communication device based on data received via said first connection, such that at least said second communication device joins said conference session.
22. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein said validation data comprises at least one of a conference number and PIN (personal identification number).
23. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein said validating entity comprises said conference server.
24. (New) A conference server for controlling conferencing between communication devices, comprising,  
a service logic module enabled for validating validation data; and  
a network interface module enabled for:  
instructing a switching point to establish at least a first connection between a voice interface unit (VIU) and at least a first communication device such that said VIU may receive at least first validation data from at least said first communication device and forward said first validation data to the conference server, said switching point enabled to establish connections for the communication devices; and, in response to validating said first

validation data:

instructing said switching point to terminate said first connection; and

instructing said switching point to establish a second connection between at least one conference bridge and said first communication device to establish a conferencing session.

25. (New) The conference server of claim 24, wherein said validation data comprises at least one of a conference number and PIN (personal identification number).

26. (New) The conference server of claim 24, wherein said validating entity comprises said conference server.

27. (New) A method of conferencing communication devices in a system comprising a conference server, a voice interface unit (VIU) and at least one conference bridge, comprising,  
at the conference server,

instructing a switching point to establish a first connection between the VIU and a first communication device, said switching point enabled to establish connections for the communication devices;  
at the VIU,

receiving first validation data from said first communication device;  
and

forwarding said first validation data to the conference server; and  
at the conference server,

validating said first validation data; and, in response to said  
validating said first validation data:

instructing said switching point to terminate said first connection; and

instructing said switching point to establish a second connection between the at least one conference bridge and said first communication device, to establish a conferencing session.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising, at the conference server, instructing said VIU to play at least one announcement over said first connection, prior to said instructing said switching point to terminate said first connection.
29. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said instructing said switching point to establish said first connection occurs in response to receiving a query from said switching point, the query generated in response to receiving a conference call service access number from said first communication device at said switching point.
30. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said instructing said switching point to establish said first connection occurs in response to a time being a scheduled time, said scheduled time being previously provisioned in a conference call-setup.
31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein said conference call set-up occurs via at least one of at least one SMS message, at least one USSD message, a web-based graphical user interface (GUI), and an interactive voice response (IVR) menu.
32. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising at the conference server,

instructing said switching point to establish at least a third connection between the VIU and at least a second communication device;

at the VIU,

receiving at least second validation data from at least said second communication device; and

forwarding at least said second validation data to the conference server; and

at the conference server,

validating at least said second validation data; and, in response to said validating at least said second validation data:

instructing said switching point to terminate at least said third connection; and

instructing said switching point to establish at least a fourth connection between the at least one conference bridge and at least said second communication device such that at least said second communication device joins said conferencing session.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising, at the conference server, instructing the VIU to set up a communication session with the at least one conference bridge to announce the arrival of at least said second communication device to said conferencing session.

34. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising, at the conference server, monitoring at least one of conference time and conference events.

35. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising, at the conference server,

interfacing with at least one of a billing system and an open charging middleware platform for mediating with at least one of a prepaid platform and a postpaid platform, said interfacing for determining a remaining amount of funds for paying for said conferencing session;

detecting a remaining amount of conference time based on said remaining amount of funds; and

instructing the VIU to set up a communication session with the conference bridge to play a warning expiry announcement in said conference session.

36. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising dialing out to at least a second communication device based on data received via said first connection, such that at least said second communication device joins said conference session.

37. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said validation data comprises at least one of a conference number and PIN (personal identification number).

38. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said validating entity comprises said conference server.